ON *BERTHAÏS*, A PROPOSED NEW GENUS OF MARINE GASTROPODA FROM THE GULF OF OMAN.

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A few months ago I published,[1] in conjunction with Mr. R. Standen, the description of a small but peculiar Gastropod from the Gulf of Oman, as follows :—

Scala (Constantia) intertexta, sp.n.

"S. testa gracili, fusiformi, albida, delicata, anfractibus 10, quorum apicales tres parvi, vitrei, læves, cylindrici, cæteris ad suturas multum impressis, pulcherrime regulariter decussatis (aut reticulatis), ad juncturas lirarum spiralium cum costulis fimbriolatis, ultimo anfractu paullum prolongato; apertura obliqui-ovata, labro effuso; columella paullum incrassata, simplici. Long. 7, lat. 1·75 mm.

"*Hab.*—Gulf of Oman, lat. 24° 58′ N., long 56° 54′ E., 156 fathoms."

The following remarks were added :—"Rarely has a small mollusk caused such perplexity as in the present instance. Two examples alone have occurred, but both have the apex perfect, this being non-heterostrophe, though in most other particulars the form and texture recall such pyramidelloid genera as *Mormula*, *Pyrgulina*, or *Mumiola*, especially one species of the latter genus, *M. spirata*, A. Ad., which also occurs in the same seas.

"Mr. Edgar Smith considers *Onoba egregia*, A. Ad. (which should be removed from that genus), the nearest approach to our shell, and suggests that it might, at all events provisionally, be located in *Aclis*. In lip-characters it assimilates this genus, while superficially resembling in the decussating sculpture *Cirsotrema*, e.g. *dentiscalpium*, Wats. But perhaps the subgenus *Constantia* of *Scala* is best fitted for its reception, for it seems comparable with *C. Standeni*, Melv., in more than one point."

This species was extracted from shell-sand dredged at 156 fathoms, in the station as given above, which it is no exaggeration to say has produced a greater number of hitherto unknown mollusca, mostly minute, at one sweep of the dredge, than has occurred since the "Challenger" Expedition and their famous hauls at Stations 23 (Culebra Island) and 122 (Pernambuco), perhaps even surpassing them.

Shortly after the above remarks were written, it occurred to me to forward the *C. intertexta* to Dr. W. H. Dall, at Washington, for his

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[1] Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. vii, vol. xii, pp. 290 sqq.

opinion. He was kind enough to reply in October last:—"This shell is unknown to me, and doubtless a new genus. I do not think it belongs either to Pyramidellidæ or Scalidæ. The nucleus recalls that of a section of *Aclis* which I named *Amblyspira*, from the West Indian region, but the aperture and sculpture are very distinct."

The animal is unknown, and I fear the chances of its being dredged alive are not very great; it is therefore necessary to draw all conclusions and inferences from the shell itself. Happily the type is a good, well-grown, and quite perfect example; and not long ago, in sorting more of the shell-sand, I extracted another unmistakable (though smaller and rather imperfect) specimen.

The great difficulty is to seek successfully its nearest ally; and I cannot help thinking that *Aclis* is its congener, as it harmonises especially with the somewhat reticulate species of the section *Graphis*, and perhaps this genus should be removed from the Scalidæ and constituted as the type of a separate family, Aclididæ.

I still consider *Constantia* not far removed from our species; the type of this genus is, however, perforate, and the form of the aperture quite different from my shells, in which, likewise, the character of the reticulations are not as in *Scala*, where longitudinal lamellæ often interlaced with inferior spiral liræ predominate, the sculpture and lirations of *intertexta* are uniform, and the points of junction between these liræ, longitudinal and spiral, are slightly beaded. It is therefore in this particular quite unlike any *Scala* or *Constantia*, and still more unlike *Aclis*, though the nucleus does resemble that of this last genus, as is corroborated by Dr. Dall.

Deciding, then, for the present, if only as a temporary arrangement, to consider this shell as belonging to the above alliance, I may characterize it as the type of a new genus, as follows:—

BERTHAÏS, gen. nov.

Testa fusiformis, gracilis, albida, delicata, parva, imperforata, anfractus 9–10, apicalibus tribus minutis, vitreis, lævibus, cylindricis, cæteri ad suturas multum impressi, pulcherrime regulariter decussati vel reticulati, ultimus anfractus paullum prolongatus, apertura obliqui-ovata, labrum paullum effusum, columella simplex.

Berthaïs intertexta (Melv. & Stand.). Fig. I.

Scala (*Constantia*) *intertexta*, M. & St.: Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. vii, vol. xii, pp. 305, 306, pl. xxii, fig. 6.

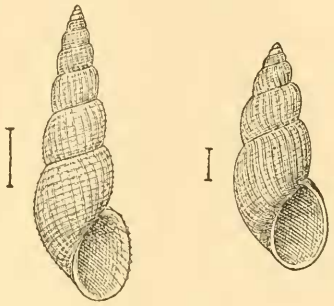
As already stated, as suggested by Mr. E. A. Smith, it is almost certain that *Onoba egregia*, A. Ad., is also a species of *Berthaïs*, to be known in future as *B. egregia* (A. Ad.).

The species was thus characterized[1] by its author:—

[1] Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. iii, vol. xi (1863), p. 349.

ONOBA EGREGIA, A. Adams. Fig. II.

"O. testa subulato-turrita, sordide alba; anfractibus 6, planiusculis, spiratis, postice rotundate angulatis, lamellis longitudinalibus erectis undulatis, interstitiis transversim pulcherrime striolatis instructis; suturis profundis; apertura aperta, ovali; peristomate tenui, continuo; labro subdilatato, margine simplici, undulato.



I. II.

"*Hab.*—Sato Uchi, Japan, 17 fathoms; Yobuko, Japan, 10 fathoms.

"A very charming species, with lamellar, undulating, longitudinal riblets, and the interstices crossed by fine spiral elevated lines. The aperture is somewhat expanded, and there is no external varix on the outer lip."

The specimen figured is in the British Museum.

In all probability it will be found that several other species, some described as Pyramidellidæ, others as Rissoidæ, should be placed in this genus.